



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CONSPIRING TO SMUGGLE ILLEGAL ALIENS

Smuggled alien gave birth to smuggler's child after alleged assault

TUCSON, Ariz. - Timoteo Santos Ramos, 30, of Oaxaca, Mexico, was sentenced here on Monday to 33 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury for alien smuggling. Ramos pleaded guilty on January 31, 2006, to an information charging him with conspiracy to transport illegal aliens.

On March 18, 2004, ICE agents from Fresno, Calif., took sworn statements from a brother and sister, both Mexican citizens, who stated that they were smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico by Ramos. The brother stated he and his sister were approached by Ramos in Mexico where he offered to smuggle them into the U.S. for \$1,000 apiece. The brother elected to be smuggled first and later arranged for his sister to be smuggled after he had earned enough money in the U.S. Ramos transported the brother in March through the desert near Sasabe, Ariz., and to Oxnard, Calif.

The sister indicated in her statement that in April 2003, Ramos smuggled her in through Altar, Sonora, Mexico, and through the desert near Sasabe, Ariz. with a group of men and women. She stated that once in the U.S. near the border, Ramos separated them into smaller groups of two or three, then directed them to hide and remain quiet. During this time, she alleged that Ramos sexually assaulted her in the desert. Ramos successfully guided the group to Oxnard, Calif. and three months later Ramos was paid by the pair.

Although the brother and sister were not apprehended by law enforcement, approximately four months later, the sister reported to a sheriff's deputy in Madera County, Madera, Calif. (where she was residing illegally) that Ramos had smuggled her into the U.S. and had sexually assaulted her in the desert. She reported that she was pregnant as a result. After the child was born in January 2004 (exactly nine months following the illegal entry into the United States), subsequent DNA tests confirmed that the child was Ramos'.

In the plea agreement, Ramos agreed that he had conspired with others to transport the brother and sister illegal aliens into the U.S. and that he was paid for this offense. Ramos further agreed that during this period of the conspiracy, he had sexual relations with the female and that as a result, she became pregnant and subsequently had his child. Ramos also acknowledged the results of the DNA paternity test. He maintained all along, however, that the sexual relations were consensual.

A restitution hearing to determine the amount of restitution to be provided to the various health agencies involved is scheduled for September 2006.

The investigation in this case was conducted by officials from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Tucson, Ariz. and Fresno, Calif., and the Sheriff's Department in Madera, Calif. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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